



King's Cross Academy

Clothing and Academy Uniform Policy

Chair of Governors: Robert Evans and Alexandra Woolmore

Headteacher: Stephen Mitchell

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Introduction

Schools have the responsibility to provide an ordered environment in which children see themselves as part of a larger community. The Governing Body has a '*statutory duty to ensure that school policies promote good behaviour and discipline amongst the pupil body*' A dress code helps to establish this environment by:

- increasing the sense of pupil identity with the Academy;
- identifying children with the Academy when they are outside the school itself e.g. on trips;
- creating a consistent sense of what is and what is not appropriate clothing for school;
- helping young people to see the Academy as a business-like place where they go to learn, not as a purely social place;
- reducing the element of divisive competition that exists between children (particularly amongst the older age groups) in terms of clothing style and "labels" worn.

What is our basic uniform?

TOPS (with or without the Academy logo but no other logos, patterns, stripes etc):

- **Sweatshirt, fleece or jumper:** plain red.
- **Shirt, blouse or t-shirt/polo shirt:** pale blue

BOTTOMS:

- **Trousers:** plain grey or black.
- **Skirts:** plain grey or black.
- **Dresses/pinafores:** plain red, grey or red and white gingham dresses are allowed.

OUTDOOR WEAR:

- **Coats and jackets:** Coats and jackets need to be red, grey or black. This helps to identify Academy children on trips.

You can buy your uniform online from www.academyschooluniforms.co.uk/shop/King-s-Cross-Academy. Uniform samples are available to inspect.

What about footwear?

- We recommend that shoes are worn rather than trainers, though this is not compulsory. Any high heels or 'flip-flops' are not safe for school and must not be worn.
- A separate pair of gym shoes or trainers is needed for PE from Year 1.

What about jewellery?

- Jewellery is not generally allowed in school for health and safety reasons e.g. necklaces and earrings can get caught and cause injury.
- If children have pierced ears, they may wear small studs which are unlikely to cause injury.
- Other face and body piercings are not allowed in school.
- If jewellery is worn for religious reasons, this should be discreet and must not cause the risk of injury to the child or others.

What about make-up?

- Nail varnish and make-up are **not** allowed in school.

What happens if a child does not follow the Academy dress code?

The Government has produced guidelines on uniform that make it clear that the Academy should ensure that its policy is adhered to by all pupils. This means that where pupils consistently wear clothes that are not within the dress code, the Academy should follow this up with appropriate consequences.

We are confident that our policy is flexible enough to allow all parents and children to comply with it. We certainly do not wish to be policing the dress code – we would rather spend our time and energy developing learning. However, if the dress code is not followed, we will need to respond appropriately:

Steps taken if your child does not follow the dress code:

- Level 1: Class teacher or other staff will remind the child of the need for appropriate dress. A letter is sent home to remind the parent of the dress code.
- Level 2: The Phase Leader or Class Teacher may meet with the parent. The parent may also be contacted.
- Level 3: A member of the SLT team may have to meet with the parents/carers.
- Level 4: Final warning letter.

The guidance continues: 'Where a pupil is not adhering to a school uniform policy, a school should be considerate and discreetly try to establish why not. There may be good reasons

why a pupil is not attending school in the correct uniform. For example, their uniform may have been lost, stolen or damaged. Sending the pupil home or excluding them may not be appropriate in every case. If a pupil is not wearing the correct uniform because their parents are in financial difficulties, a school should be sensitive to the needs of the pupil. A school should give parents time to purchase the required items. A pupil should not be made to feel uncomfortable, nor discriminated against, because their parents are unable to provide them with the required items of school uniform.'

Other clothing issues

- **Spare clothes in nursery / reception classes** – For children's first term in reception, please make sure that your child brings a complete set of clothes, including underwear to keep in the school. If they have an accident, they can then be changed easily.
- **PE – Physical Education** – There are no less than two PE lessons a week. Children must change into a PE kit for hygiene reasons, although very young children sometimes prefer to do indoor PE in their underwear as it allows freer movement. Either of these options is fine.
- **Labelling and lost property** – Please make sure that your child's clothes are clearly labelled with your child's full name in case of loss. Lost property is stored on the ground floor by the Facilities Manager's office.
- **Coats, hats and gloves** – Children's coats and scarves are hung up on pegs outside the classrooms. Hats and gloves can be stored in classroom trays as they can get lost easily. It is essential that coats are warm and waterproof. Please try to make sure that your child can put their coat on and do it up as they can then develop more independence.

Responsibilities in implementing this Policy

The Headteacher is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this Policy but authorises all staff to follow up dress code issues where appropriate.

- All staff are expected to promote the Academy's dress code through positive encouragement and praise where appropriate but also by following up any issues.
- For persistent and defiant failure to follow the dress code, the Headteacher will decide on the appropriate response.

Monitoring of this Policy

- Class teachers monitor the level of adherence to the dress code in their classes.
- Phase Leaders monitor the level of adherence within their Phase and may discuss this issue in Phase Meetings from time to time and report to the Headteacher if there are any issues.

- The Senior Team (in future years) monitors the overall level of adherence to the dress code across the school.
- The Headteacher reports to the Governors' Conditions for Learning Committee.